



News Release

**ORANGE COUNTY/INLAND
EMPIRE DISTRICT OFFICE**

Release Date: April 23, 2019

Contact: Sheree Coates (714) 560-7466

Release Number: OCIE-19-15

Internet Address: <http://www.sba.gov/ca/santa>
Follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) & [Blogs](#)

Janine Gass and Darcy N. Thomas-Maskrey, President and VP of Techniglove International, Inc. Selected as 2019 Family-Owned Business of the Year

SANTA ANA, Calif. – The U.S. Small Business Administration, Orange County / Inland Empire District Office has selected Janine Gass and Darcy N. Thomas-Maskrey, president and vice president of Techniglove International, Inc. to be recognized as the 2019 Family-Owned Business of the Year. Gass and Thomas-Maskrey were nominated for the award by Sylvia Pizarroso, senior relationship manager and vice president at J.P. Morgan Chase Bank in Irvine, CA.

Techniglove International, Inc. was founded in 1998 by Roger W. Gass, the husband of Janine Gass and father to Darcy N. Thomas-Maskrey. Tragedy struck the family in 2002 when Mr. Gass was diagnosed with lung cancer and passed away shortly after. Mother and daughter were forced to work through their loss while also surviving the family business—but they did more than just survive. This dynamic family team pushed through their hardships and emerged with a stronger and more diverse company.

Techniglove International, Inc. designs, manufactures and distributes disposable gloves for contamination-controlled work environments. Their gloves are designed for industrial use in cleanrooms, sterile non-medical environments, and pharmaceutical activities. The company is headquartered in Riverside, CA and they serve distributors around the world.

Thomas-Maskrey was being recruited to work on Wall Street when the loss of her father inspired her to refocus her goals and learn the family business. Mrs. Gass and Thomas-Maskrey were determined to keep Techniglove International, Inc. alive but to do so, they reluctantly decided it was best to offer the long-time sales director 20% ownership. In early 2017, with the assistance of an SBA guaranteed loan, the mother and daughter team were able to buyout the part-owner and return to a 100% family-owned business.

Mrs. Gass and Thomas-Maskrey have created 11 non-family member jobs and increased revenue 350% during their tenure. These inspiring business women have pushed Techniglove International, Inc. to become the U.S. market share leader for clean room gloves—the remaining goal set by Mr. Gass when he started the company. Their business story is a testament to success even after tragedy strikes.

Mrs. Gass and Darcy N. Thomas-Maskrey will be recognized and receive their award as the 2019 Family-Owned Business of the Year at the local Small Business Week Awards program to be held Friday, June 7 from 10:30 a.m. until

approximately 2 p.m. at the Disneyland Hotel Grand Ballroom. For more information on the event, email events@ochcc.com or call (949) 891-1464.

###

About the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953 and is a Cabinet-level agency of the federal government to aid, counsel, assist and protect the interests of small business concerns, to preserve free competitive enterprise and to maintain and strengthen the overall economy of our nation. The SBA helps Americans start, build and grow businesses, and recover from disasters. Through an extensive network of field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations, the SBA delivers its services to people throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam. To learn more about SBA, visit www.sba.gov.

About the Orange County / Inland Empire District Office

The Orange County / Inland Empire District Office, under the leadership and vision of J. Adalberto Quijada, District Director, is responsible for the delivery of SBA programs and services in the Southern California counties of Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino. Located in Santa Ana near John Wayne Airport, the office and its staff facilitate understanding and access to SBA loan programs; coordinate and conduct hundreds of training sessions and special events annually such as matchmaking forums and loan workshops; and manage a portfolio of nearly 100 businesses enrolled in the agency's 8(a) business development program.